

Serial No. 10/650,893

Atty Dkt No. 706716US1

REMARKS:

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's comments in the Office Action and have prepared the following response.

Claims 11, 16, 17, and 19-22 remain in the application. Initially, Applicants express appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 11 and 22 are allowed, and that claims 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Turning now to the issues raised in the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10, and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Petillo et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0047801, hereinafter "Petillo") in view of Taschek (US Patent No. 4,155,712, hereinafter "Taschek"). Claims 3-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petillo in view of Taschek and further in view of Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook. Claims 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112 ¶1 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections, and request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

As previously stated, the Examiner has indicated that claims 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. By this paper, claims 1-10, 12-15, and 18 have been canceled, claim 16 has been rewritten into independent form, and claims 17 and 19-21 have been amended. As such, Applicants contend that newly amended independent claim 16 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination. With respect to the remaining dependent claims 17 and 19-21, without conceding the Examiner's position, Applicants contend these claims are allowable as a result of the dependency, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 11 or 16. No new matter has been introduced by virtue of this amendment. Furthermore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment as it puts this case in condition for allowance.

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From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the remaining claims are now in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner determines a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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